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THE URBAN DISTRICT
OF SKELMERSDALE

Annual Report

of the
**Medical Officer
of Health**

FOR THE YEAR
1965



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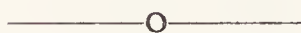
THE URBAN DISTRICT
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SKELMERSDALE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
1965



Chairman J. T. LATHAM

Vice-Chairman R. STOCKLEY

Chairman of the Health Committee: J. T. LATHAM



J. CADWELL

A. R. LYON

A. DAVIES

T. MIDDLEHURST

H. EDDEN

T. MOSTON

Mrs. J. GREEN

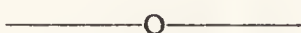
R. H. PHEASANT

J. GREEN

J. W. SHUFFLEBOTHAM

Mrs. W. B. GREGSON W. T. WESTERGREN

H. HARDMAN



Medical Officer of Health:

J. GORDON HAILWOOD, M.D., CH.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
(part-time)

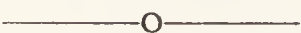
(Divisional Medical Officer, Lancashire County Council)

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

J. O'GORMAN, M.D., CH.B., B.A.O., D.P.H., (part-time)
(Senior Assistant Divisional Medical Officer, Lancashire County
Council)

Assistant Divisional Medical Officer of Health:

T. M. C. LINDSAY, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., (part-time)



Public Health Inspector:

ALBERT LAVELLE, M.A., P.H.I., A.R.S.H., CERT.L.HSG.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of Skelmersdale during 1965.

The health of the district remained good throughout the year. There were 26 cases of infectious diseases notified during the year, of which 15 were measles and 7 tuberculosis.

The birth rate was 18.2 per 1,000 population, compared with 19.0 last year, whilst there were two infant deaths under one year, giving an infant death rate of 18.0 per 1,000 live births.

The general death rate remained steady at 15.0 per 1,000 population, compared with 15.6 in 1964. There were again no maternal deaths during the year.

Housing conditions continue to improve and further progress was made with the slum clearance. 250 new houses were completed during the year, of which 67 were built by the Local Authority. 58 houses were demolished as unfit for human habitation under the Housing Acts, while a further 63 were awaiting action. In addition, some 250 houses were found to be unfit, but capable of being rendered fit.

The Public Health Inspector maintained his high standard of work in spite of continual additions to the legislation. He made 1,498 visits to inspect houses under the Public Health and Housing Acts and 492 other visits. As a result, 260 notices were served to abate nuisances and 234 were complied with.

Finally I would thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their interest and support during the year, and the staff for their ready help and co-operation at all times.

I am your obedient servant,

J. G. HAILWOOD

Medical Officer of Health

June, 1966

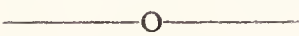
Area of District: 1,942 acres.

Resident Population (Registrar General's estimate at mid-1965):
6,950.

Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Book at end of 1965:
2,526.

Rateable Value: £204,529.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £896.



SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1965

| | <i>Male</i> | <i>Female</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|---|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| LIVE BIRTHS | 67 | 50 | 117 |
| Live birth rate per 1,000 population | — | — | 18.2 |
| Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births | — | — | 5.1 |
| STILL BIRTHS | — | 1 | 1 |
| Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births | — | — | 8.5 |
| TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS | 67 | 51 | 118 |
| DEATHS | 42 | 38 | 80 |
| Death rate per 1,000 population | — | — | 15.0 |
| INFANT DEATHS | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births | — | — | 17.1 |
| Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births legitimate | — | — | 18.0 |
| Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births illegitimate | — | — | — |
| Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live birth (first four weeks) | — | — | — |
| Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births (first week) | — | — | — |
| Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births (still births and deaths under 1 week combined) | — | — | 8.5 |
| Maternal deaths (including abortion) | — | — | — |
| Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births | — | — | — |

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS

Births

There were 117 births registered in the Urban District during the year, of which 67 were male and 50 female and including 6 illegitimate births, of which 4 were male and 2 female. The adjusted birth rate per 1,000 population (mid-1965) (comparability factor 1.04) was 18.2 compared with 19.0 in 1964.

Deaths

The total number of deaths registered in the Urban District during the year was 80, of this number 42 were male and 38 female. There was no change on the figure for 1964. The crude death rate for the year was 11.9 per 1,000 population. The adjusted death rate (comparability factor 1.26) was 15.0 per 1,000 population compared with 15.6 in 1964.

Infant Mortality

There were no deaths during the year due to Zymotic or Epidemic diseases. There were 2 deaths of infants under 1 year, an infantile mortality rate of 17.1 per 1,000 live births.

Maternal Mortality

No maternal deaths occurred in the district during the year. The maternal mortality rate per 1,000 population for England and Wales was 0.25.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE SKELMERSDALE URBAN DISTRICT 1965

| | <i>Male Female</i> | |
|---|--------------------|----|
| Tuberculosis of the respiratory system | — | — |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis | — | — |
| Syphilitic Disease | — | — |
| Diphtheria | — | — |
| Whooping Cough | — | — |
| Meningococcal Infections | — | — |
| Acute Poliomyelitis | — | — |
| Measles | — | — |
| Other infective and parastic diseases | — | — |
| Cancer | 3 | 8 |
| Leukaemia, Aleukaemia | — | — |
| Diabetes | — | 1 |
| Vascular lesions of nervous systems | 9 | 5 |
| Heart diseases | 12 | 10 |
| Other circulatory diseases | 2 | 1 |
| Influenza | — | — |
| Pneumonia | — | 2 |
| Bronchitis | 5 | — |
| Other diseases of respiratory system | 1 | 1 |
| Ulcer of stomach and duodenum | — | 1 |
| Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea | — | 1 |
| Nephritis and nephrosis | 1 | — |
| Hyperplasia of prostate | — | — |
| Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion | — | — |
| Congenital malformations | 1 | — |
| Other defined and ill-defined diseases | 4 | 6 |
| Motor vehicle accidents | 1 | — |
| All other accidents | 1 | 2 |
| Suicide | 2 | — |
| Homicide and operations of war | — | — |
| TOTAL | 42 | 38 |

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

Pathological specimens of a simple nature, throat swabs, etc., are sent for examination to the E.M.S. Pathological Laboratory at Ormskirk and District General Hospital. All other specimens are sent to the City Laboratories, Liverpool.

Ambulance Facilities

Ambulance Services are provided by the County Council under the National Health Services Act, 1946.

Clinics and Treatment Centres

A Congregational Schoolroom in Witham Road is utilised every Wednesday morning as a Clinic Welfare Centre and Minor Ailments Clinic, under the direction of Dr. T. M. C. Lindsay and Mrs. Nicholson and Miss Peate of the Lancashire County Council. An immunisation clinic is held every fourth Wednesday afternoon in each month at 2-15 p.m. on the same premises by Doctor Lindsay. A chiropody clinic is held each Friday and is a free service for old age pensioners.

A new clinic has been opened at 50/52 Tarlswood where a school Clinic and a child welfare clinic is held each Thursday from 2 to 4 p.m. under the direction of Dr. J. M. Allen, General Practitioner, with Mrs. Nicholson and Miss Peate, Lancashire County Council, in attendance.

Hospitals

There are no hospitals in the town.

The Ormskirk and District General Hospital and the Wigan Hospitals provide ample accommodation for all patients from Skelmersdale.

Infectious cases are admitted to the New Hall Isolation Hospital, Scarisbrick.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The township is supplied with water by the West Lancashire Water Board.

Water is pumped from two boreholes some 750 feet deep at Scarth Hill into the adjoining water tower from which it gravitates through a 7in. main to the district. This pumping station formerly belonged to the Council who sold it to the Southport and District Water Board in 1907. The West Lancashire Water Board have become responsible for both supply and distribution. Many lengths of old mains have been renewed. The water supply is of the highest standard of organic bacterial purity.

Due to the Council's post war building programme and modernisation of existing old houses, the pressure in the highest parts of the town is poor at certain periods of the week, but the position has improved since the installation of a booster pump on the 7in. supply mains.

Sewage Disposal

The district is sewered on the partly separate system. The sewage from approximately 2,000 houses is discharged by gravity through a 24in. outfall sewer at the Council's Berry Street Disposal Works, and that from approximately 350 houses, by a 15in. outfall sewer at the Pennylands Works.

Sewage from a small number of houses in the Stormy Area is discharged into settling tanks at the rear of Summer Street.

The sewage at Berry Street is treated by settlement and land irrigation, and is in urgent need of modernisation.

The sewage at Pennylands is treated by sedimentation and filtration and considerable improvement has been made in the quality of the effluent.

Additional temporary sewage disposal plants have been provided to serve the first phase of the New Town comprising 600 houses and also to serve the Gillibrand Industrial Estate.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

- Privy Middens — Nil.
Number of pail closets — 39. Number converted to W.C.'s — Nil.
Number of dry ashpits (excluding middens) — Nil.
Number of moveable ashbins — 2,421
Number of houses on water carriage system — 2,409.
Number of water closets (including school, etc.) — 2,459.

HOUSING

- Number of new houses erected during the year:*
 (i) By the Local Authority 67
 (ii) By other Local Authorities Nil
 (iii) By other bodies or persons 183
1. *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:*
 (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally
 or informally for housing defects (under Public
 Health or Housing Acts) 436
 (b) Number of inspections formal or informal made for
 the purpose 1349

- (2) Dwelling houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit:
- (a) Number found during the year 63
- (b) Number (or estimated number) at end of year ... 200
- (3) Number of dwelling houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, but capable of being rendered fit 247

2. *Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1957):*

- (1) Number of dwellings demolished during the year:
- (a) Unfit houses 39
- (b) Other houses Nil
- (2) Number of persons displaced 207
- (3) Number of families displaced 72

3. *Houses not included in Clearance Areas:*

- (1) Houses demolished or closed during year.

Housing Act, 1957:—

| | No. of | |
|---|--------|-------------------|
| | Houses | Persons Displaced |
| (i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 11) ... | 19 | 31 |
| (ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force | 4 | 11 |
| (iii) Parts of building closed (Section 12) | Nil | Nil |

- (2) Repairs during the year:

- (a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by Local Authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts 222
- (b) Public Health Acts—action after service of informal notice—houses in which defects were remedied:
- (i) By Owners 12
- (ii) By Local Authority in default of owners 2

- (c) Housing Act, 1936—action after service of informal notice (sections 9, 10, 11 and 16)—Houses made fit:
- (i) By Owners Nil
- (ii) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil
- (d) Housing repairs and Rents Act, 1954:
- Houses re-constructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5) Nil

4. *Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Act, 1957):*

- (1) Number of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under section 7 Nil
- (2) Number of separate dwellings contained in (1) above Nil
- (3) Number of houses at end of year licensed for temporary occupation (section 6) Nil

5. *House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 — Improvement Grants, etc.:*

Action during year — Application approved 2

INFECTIOUS DISEASE STATISTICS

| | Smallpox | Enteric Fever | Scarlet Fever | Measles | Diphtheria | Puerperal Pyrexia | Erysipelas | Whooping Cough | Pneumonia | Para-Typhoid Fever | Ophthalmia Neonatorum | Acute Poliomyelitis | Dysentery |
|----------------|----------|---------------|---------------|---------|------------|-------------------|------------|----------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| Cases | — | — | 4 | 15 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Deaths | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The number of children who have completed a full course of Immunisation during the year ended 31st December, 1965, is as follows:—

Children between the ages 0-4 years, 98, and children between the ages 5-15 years, 1, making a total of 99.

SCARLET FEVER

*Table showing incidence and mortality from Scarlet Fever
1956-1965*

| | 1956 | 1957 | 1958 | 1959 | 1960 | 1961 | 1962 | 1963 | 1964 | 1965 |
|--------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Cases | — | — | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 4 |
| Deaths | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1965

| Age Periods | New Cases | | | | Deaths | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|---|-----------------|---|-------------|---|-----------------|---|
| | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | |
| | | | M | F | | | M | F |
| 1—5 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 6—10 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 11—15 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 16—20 | 2 | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 21—25 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 26—35 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 36—45 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 46—55 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 56—65 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Over 65 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| TOTALS | 3 | 4 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | 7 | | — | | — | | — | |

Dispensary and sanatorium treatment for Tuberculosis is administered by the appropriate department of the Lancashire County Council.

The following table shows the number, monthly distribution and nature of cases of Infectious Diseases coming under the notice of the Medical Officer of Health during 1965

| | JANUARY | FEBRUARY | MARCH | APRIL | MAY | JUNE | JULY | AUGUST | SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER | NOVEMBER | DECEMBER | TOTALS | REMOVED TO HOSPITAL |
|----------------------------|---------|----------|-------|-------|-----|------|------|--------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|--------|---------------------|
| ANTHRAX | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| SMALLPOX | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| SCARLET FEVER | — | — | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 4 | — |
| DIPHTHERIA | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| ENTERIC FEVER | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| PARA-TYPHOID FEVER | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| ACUTE PNEUMONIA | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| PUERPERAL PYREXIA | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION . | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| MALARIA | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| DYSENTERY | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| MEASLES | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 2 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 15 | — |
| WHOOPING COUGH | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| ERYSIPELAS | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM . | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| TOTALS | 3 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 2 | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 20 | — |

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1965

| Notifiable Diseases | TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED | | | | | | | | | | | | | | HOSPITAL | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|-------|---|---|---|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------------|---|-----------------|---|---|
| | Total Cases at all ages | Under 1 Year | YEARS | | | | | | | | | | | | Total Deaths | Total Cases removed to Hospital | Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district |
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5--10 | 11--15 | 16--20 | 21--35 | 36--45 | 46--65 | over 65 | | | | |
| SMALLPOX | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| SCARLET FEVER ... | 4 | — | 1 | — | — | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| DIPHTHERIA | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| ENTERIC FEVER ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| PARA-TYPHOID | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| FEVER | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| PUERPERAL | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| PYREXIA | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| ERYSIPELAS | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| POLIOMYELITIS . . . | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| ACUTE | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| PNEUMONIA ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| MENINGOCOCCAL | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| INFECTION | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| MEASLES | 15 | 1 | 3 | — | 3 | 2 | 6 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| WHOOPIING COUGH | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| FOOD POISONING .. | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| DYSENTERY | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| ANTHRAX | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| OPHTHALMIA | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| NEONATORUM | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| PULMONARY | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| TUBERCULOSIS ... | 7 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 5 | — | 1 | — | — | — | 7 | — | |
| NON-PULMONARY | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| TUBERCULOSIS | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| TOTALS | 27 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 5 | — | 1 | — | — | — | 7 | — | |

Factories Acts, 1937 to 1959

1. INSPECTIONS

| Premises | Number on Register | Number of | | |
|--|--------------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| | | Inspections | Written Notice | Occupiers Prosecuted |
| (1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority | 3 | 3 | — | — |
| (2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority | 28 | 28 | 1 | — |
| (3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority | — | — | — | — |
| Total | 31 | 31 | 1 | — |

2. DEFECTS FOUND

| Particulars | Number of cases in which defects were found | | | | Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted |
|---|---|----------|-------------------|-------------------|---|
| | Found | Remedied | Referred | | |
| | | | To H.M. Inspector | By H.M. Inspector | |
| Want of Cleanliness (Sect. 1) | — | — | — | — | — |
| Overcrowding (Sect. 2) . | — | — | — | — | — |
| Inadequate ventilation (Sect. 4) | — | — | — | — | — |
| Ineffective drainage of floor (Sect. 6) | — | — | — | — | — |
| Sanitary conveniences (Sect. 7) | | | | | |
| (a) Insufficient | — | — | — | — | — |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective | 1 | 1 | — | — | — |
| (c) Not separate for sexes | — | — | — | — | — |
| Other offences against the Act | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total | 1 | 1 | — | — | — |

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1965

The year was notable for three reasons :

(a) Acceleration of the Council's slum clearance programme with the confirmation of 4 Compulsory Purchase Orders by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

(b) Confirmation of the Council's No. 1 Smoke Control area which heralds a smokeless New Town.

(c) The operation of the paper sack for refuse collection using a manual trailer in pedestrian precincts at approximately twice the speed of normal bin collection.

HOUSING

(a) *Improvements*

2 applications for standard improvement grants were approved during the year.

(b) *Repairs*

Extensive repairs have been carried out to rented properties throughout the area as a result of both formal and statutory notices.

(c) *Slum Clearance*

58 houses were demolished during the year; 39 under Compulsory Purchase Orders, 36 of which were in clearance areas and 19 under demolition orders. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government confirmed the High Street / New Street / Union Street / Florence Road Compulsory Purchase Order, the Beaman Street / Sandy Lane Compulsory Purchase Order, the Fox Street Compulsory Purchase Order, and the No. 2 Sherrat Street Compulsory Purchase Order affecting a total of 93 houses during the year, of which 72 were in clearance areas.

FOOD

(a) *Premises*

Occupiers are maintaining their premises in a satisfactory condition.

(b) *Unsound Food*

The following articles, unfit for human consumption, have been surrendered by retailers :

| | <i>Food</i> | <i>Weight</i> |
|--------|-------------|---------------|
| Tinned | Ham | 30 lbs. |
| " | Pork | 11½ lbs. |
| " | Beef | 4 lbs. |

(c) *Adulteration of Food*

The following report has been submitted by the Lancashire County Council, whose sampling officer took the following samples in Skelmersdale for analysis by the Public Analyst :

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 boracic crystals | 2 bread |
| 1 cod liver oil B.P. | 1 oatmeal |
| 1 liquid paraffin | 1 barley |
| 1 dandelion and burdock | 1 split re lentils |

The County Analyst reported all the samples to be genuine with the exception of the following :

| <i>Sample</i> | <i>Result of Analyst</i> | <i>Action Taken</i> |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| 1 dandelion and burdock | Containing 2.7 parts per million of suspended matter coloured with the permitted food colouring Brown F.K. | Complainant and manufacturer informed by Skelmersdale U. D. C. who submitted the sample direct. |

HAWKERS OF FOOD

The erection of the first phase of the New Town commenced during 1964 and the inspection of hawkers vehicles was stepped up during this year in an endeavour to maintain a good standard with which any new hawkers will be expected to comply prior to their registration.

ICE CREAM

There are now 29 registered premises for the storage and sale of ice cream.

All retailers maintained their premises in a satisfactory condition during the year and each have satisfactory washing facilities including a constant supply of hot water.

Six ice cream samples were submitted for bacteriological examination and all were reported satisfactory.

RODENT' CONTROL

Routine inspections for the destruction of rats and mice were carried out by the Rodent Operator. Private premises were treated free of cost and a charge made for the business premises. No major infestations were discovered. Maintenance treatments for the destruction of rats in sewers were carried out and there was no evidence of serious infestation.

Attention was also paid to the Council's Sewage Works and Refuse Tip.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

This service is carried out under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector.

The Gibson Pendulum 27 cubic yard compression freighter is of sufficient capacity to require only two trips per day to the tip and has offset the disadvantage of having to travel three miles to the new tip outside the Council's area.

The paper sack system of refuse collection has been introduced and has been received favourably by the first residents of the New Town. A small manual trailer was designed for use with 2 collectors specifically for collection of paper sacks on the New Town Site, owing to the inaccessibility of the pedestrian precincts and is proving satisfactory. Paper sacks are brought in loads of approximately 20 to a point to which the Council's refuse freighter can gain access. The service is approximately twice as fast as the normal bin collection.

SHOPS

There are 94 shops on the register and 188 visits were made during the year.

Duties under the Shops Act, 1950, relating to the employment of young persons and welfare facilities were carried out on behalf of the County Council.

SCHOOLS

The school kitchens, dinner service rooms and sanitary accommodation at each of the five schools have been inspected.

The facilities at the County Secondary School are excellent and have considerably improved at the other schools.

Defects found have been reported to the Education Authority and have been rectified.

All schools have now been provided with constant supply of hot water to the wash-hand basins.

One of the schools still possesses the cement rendered urinals without means of flushing. A scheme for the installation of indoor sanitary accommodation has been approved.

FACTORIES

Routine visits have been made to the factories in the district and any defects found have been remedied.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

As the Chairman of the Skelmersdale Development Corporation envisages a smokeless New Town the Council have made their No. 1 Smoke Control Area and this was confirmed by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government at the end of the year. The development of the site which includes the first phase of the New Town is not yet complete and should finally accommodate approximately 800 houses.

A number of visits have been made to the four factories with boiler houses in the district. Smoke emission has been reduced to the permissible minimum.

The erection of the new factories on the Gillibrands site has involved the fixing of chimney heights by the Urban District Council to ensure that the ground level concentration of sulphur dioxide gas in the vicinity is kept to a level well below that considered injurious to health.

SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

| | |
|---|------|
| Number of dwelling houses inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts | 501 |
| Number of inspections made for the above purpose | 1498 |
| Visits to factories and work places | 31 |
| Visits to food premise | 186 |
| Visits re infectious diseases | 3 |
| Visits to schools | 5 |
| Visits to licensed premises | 15 |
| Visits to shops | 198 |
| Visits to hawkers vehicles | 23 |
| Visits re rodent control | 31 |
| Number of informal notices served | 247 |
| Number of informal notices complied with | 222 |
| Number of statutory notices served | 13 |
| Number of statutory notices complied with | 12 |

